

The prioritization table gives the order in which a node prefers to configure based on the protocols and the abilities within that protocol. For example:

- 1) Protocol A, ability 1
- 2) Protocol B, ability 5
- 3) Protocol A, ability 2
- 4) Protocol B, ability 2

The abilities within a protocol can be mixed in the prioritization table with the abilities from other protocols. This gives tremendous flexibility beyond simply prioritizing the protocols. This also allows network management to mask out certain abilities such that the chosen ability is the most optimal for the kind of service (like data transmission, reliable and isochronous for video/multimedia or lowest cost service etc.) required.--

Page 28, please delete lines 9-17.

Please cancel Appendices A and B, without prejudice. However, Applicant reserves the right to later incorporate portions of these appendices into the body of the specification and/or into the drawings.

#### In the Claims

Please cancel claims 5-6.

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1 1. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for matching a
- 2 [configuration] transmission protocol of a first station of a [local area] point-
- 3 to-point data communication network to a [configuration] transmission
- 4 protocol of a second station of the [local area] network, comprising:
- 5 protocol detecting means associated with the first station for detecting
- 6 an advertised [configuration capability] available protocol from the second
- 7 station that indicates [a capability] a protocol in which the second station is
- 8 capable of operating;
- 9 protocol comparing means associated with the first station for
- 10 comparing the indicated [detected advertised configuration capability]

11 protocol of the second station to a [configuration] protocol in which the first  
12 station is capable of operating;

13 priority determining means for determining, when the result of the  
14 protocol comparison is negative, which of the first station and the second  
15 station is a higher priority station for protocol negotiation;

16 protocol [configuration capability] advertising means associated with  
17 the first station for advertising, to the second station, a [configuration  
18 capability] protocol of the first station;

19 advertised [configuration capability] protocol changing means  
20 associated with the first station for changing the advertised [configuration  
21 capability] protocol of the first station when the [comparison yields a first  
22 result] priority determining means determines that the first station is the  
23 higher priority station for protocol negotiation; and

24 waiting means for waiting for [the advertised configuration capability]  
25 an indication of a change in condition of the second station [to change] when  
26 the [comparison yields a second result] priority determining means  
27 determines that the second station is the higher priority station for protocol  
28 negotiation.

1 2. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the advertised  
2 [configuration capability] available protocol of the second station is encoded  
3 by the second station into a first [configuration capability] protocol datum  
4 transmitted from the second station to the first station, wherein the detecting  
5 means detects the [configuration capability] available protocol of the second  
6 station from the first [configuration capability] protocol datum.

1 3. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the  
2 [configuration capability] protocol advertising means encodes the  
3 [configuration capability] protocol of the first station into a second  
4 configuration datum for transmission to the second station.

Please add the following new claims:

5  
7. (Added) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the indication of a  
change in condition of the second station is a change in the advertised  
available protocol of the second station.

6  
8. (Added) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the advertised  
protocol changing means includes "available protocol" determining means for  
determining whether there are available protocols, other than the advertised  
protocol of the first station, in which the first station is capable of operating,  
and

wherein the advertised protocol changing means changes the  
advertised protocol of the first station only when the "available protocol"  
determining means determines that there are other available protocols.

B3  
7  
9. (Added) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the priority  
determining means is a first priority determining means, and further  
comprising:

capability detecting means associated with the first station for  
detecting an advertised available capability from the second station that  
indicates a capability in which the second station is capable of operating;

capability comparing means associated with the first station for  
comparing the indicated capability of the second station to a capability in  
which the first station is capable of operating;

second priority determining means for determining, when the result  
of the capability comparison is negative, which of the first station and the  
second station is a higher priority station for capability negotiation;

capability advertising means associated with the first station for  
advertising, to the second station, a capability of the first station;

advertised capability changing means associated with the first station  
for changing the advertised capability of the first station when the second  
priority determining means determines that the first station is the higher  
priority station for capability negotiation,

wherein the waiting means is also for waiting for an indication of a  
change in condition of the second station when the second priority

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21 determining means determines that the second station is the higher priority  
22 station for capability negotiation.

1 <sup>8</sup>~~10~~. (Added) The apparatus of claim <sup>7</sup>~~9~~, wherein the advertised  
2 capability changing means includes "available capability" determining means  
3 for determining whether there are available capabilities, for the advertised  
4 protocol of the first station and other than the advertised capability of the  
5 first station protocol of the first station, in which the first station is capable  
6 of operating, and

7 wherein the advertised capability changing means changes the  
8 advertised capability of the first station only when the other capability  
9 determining means determines that there are other available capabilities.

B3  
1 <sup>9</sup>~~11~~. (Added) The apparatus of claim <sup>8</sup>~~10~~, wherein the waiting  
2 means is also for waiting for a change in condition of the second station  
3 when the "available capability" determining means determines that there are  
4 no available capabilities for the advertised protocol of the first station other  
5 than the advertised capability of the first station, in which the first station is  
6 capable of operating.

1 <sup>10</sup>~~12~~. (Added) The apparatus of claim <sup>9</sup>~~11~~, wherein the advertised  
2 protocol changing means is also for changing the advertised protocol of the  
3 first station when the waiting means determines that there is no indication of  
4 a change in condition of the second station within a predetermined amount of  
5 time after the "available capability" determining means determines that there  
6 are no available capabilities for the advertised protocol of the first station  
7 other than the advertised capability of the first station protocol of the first  
8 station, in which the first station is capable of operating.

1 <sup>11</sup>~~13~~. (Added) The apparatus of claim <sup>10</sup>~~12~~, wherein the advertised  
2 protocol changing means includes "available protocol" determining means for  
3 determining whether there are available protocols, other than the advertised

4 protocol of the first station, in which the first station is capable of operating,  
5 and

6 wherein the advertised protocol changing means changes the  
7 advertised protocol of the first station only when the other protocol  
8 determining means determines that there are other available protocols.

1 <sup>12</sup>  
~~14.~~ (Added) The apparatus of claim <sup>11</sup>~~13~~, wherein the waiting  
2 means is further for waiting a predetermined time before the protocol  
3 detecting means associated with the first station detects an advertised  
4 available protocol from the second station.

1 <sup>13</sup>  
~~15.~~ (Added) The apparatus of claim <sup>7</sup>~~9~~, wherein the advertised  
2 capability changing means is further for changing the advertised capability of  
3 the first station when the waiting means determines that there is no indication  
4 of a change in condition of the second station with a predetermined amount  
5 of time after the second priority determining means determines that the  
6 second station is the higher priority station for capability negotiation.

1 <sup>14</sup>  
~~16.~~ (Added) The apparatus of claim <sup>13</sup>~~15~~, wherein the advertised  
2 capability changing means includes "available capability" determining means  
3 for determining whether there are available capabilities, for the advertised  
4 protocol of the first station other than the advertised capability of the first  
5 station protocol of the first station, in which the first station is capable of  
6 operating, and

7 wherein the advertised capability changing means changes the  
8 advertised capability of the first station only when the "available capability"  
9 determining means determines that there are other available capabilities.

1 <sup>15</sup>  
~~17.~~ (Added) The apparatus of claim <sup>14</sup>~~16~~, wherein the waiting  
2 means is also for waiting for a change in condition of the second station  
3 when the "available capability" determining means determines that there are  
4 no available capabilities for the advertised protocol of the first station other

5 than the advertised capability of the first station protocol of the first station,  
6 in which the first station is capable of operating.

1 <sup>16</sup>~~18~~. (Added) The apparatus of claim <sup>15</sup>~~17~~, wherein the advertised  
2 protocol changing means is also for changing the advertised protocol of the  
3 first station when the waiting means determines that there is no indication of  
4 a change in condition of the second station within a predetermined amount of  
5 time after the "available capability" determining means determines that there  
6 are no available capabilities for the advertised protocol of the first station  
7 and other than the advertised capability of the first station protocol of the  
8 first station, in which the first station is capable of operating.

1 <sup>17</sup>~~19~~. (Added) The apparatus of claim <sup>16</sup>~~18~~, wherein the advertised  
2 protocol changing means includes "available protocol" determining means for  
3 determining whether there are available protocols, other than the advertised  
4 protocol of the first station, in which the first station is capable of operating,  
5 and  
6 wherein the advertised protocol changing means changes the  
7 advertised protocol of the first station only when the "available protocol"  
8 determining means determines that there are other available protocols.

#### In the Drawings

The Examiner is requested to approve the drawing changes noted in red on the enclosed sketches. A separate letter to the Official Draftsman is also enclosed.

#### In the Abstract

Please add an Abstract as shown on the next page: